

16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents

Oh wow, what a week! It started with an unexpected snowfall which threw everything into disarray! I'm very pleased we were able to stay open for the whole week (although I know the children were disappointed not to be allowed to play in the snow. However, the prospect of managing the falls, slips and subsequent injuries, not to mention needing over 400 spare dry tights/socks/trousers did not appeal!)

The three infant Christmas Nativities and the two junior carol services were delightful. The musical talent in the school is really astounding. A huge thank you to all the staff who brought a real sense of Christmas to all the children and families who attended any of these celebrations. You were all very generous in the retiring collections with over £1,000 raised (Catherine and Tracey still counting!) This will cover our expenses (microphone hire and costumes) with about £200 for every year group to spend on essential resources. Thank you all very much!

**Kitchen roll and boxes of tissues** – Thank you to everyone who has brought in a kitchen roll or box of tissues. Please keep them coming next week and in January.

**Important safeguarding alert** – One of our parents has alerted us to an issue with the popular website <https://harryaudiobooks.net/>. While using this site, another site containing pornography popped up. Their device may have had a virus, but it may also be an issue on the site. Please be very vigilant with your children about what they are seeing online, especially over the holidays when there may be more screen time going on.

**Internet Safety online workshop for parents** – SAVE THE DATE Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm I have organised a company to provide an internet safety session for parents. It will be online and so no need to leave the comfort of your home. It really is an essential course for all parents to ensure they know how to keep their child safe online.

**Safety near ponds** – St Monica's children have been spotted treading on nearby frozen water in local parks. With the tragic deaths of those children in Solihull, please, please do not allow your children to walk on frozen water. Mrs Tottle-Nugent spoke to the children about this today.

**Panto today** – A big thank you to The Friends who paid for the children to have a visit from a pantomime today. They thoroughly enjoyed the performance of Dick Wittington.

**Recent news on the school website** – Keep checking our recent events to see if you can spot your child on a photo! More will be added over the holidays from this week's events including a lovely recital of the orchestra playing for parents on Thursday afternoon. Click the link <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/category/news/>

**IDL before school** – For those children who come to school at 8.45am please do not come on Monday or Tuesday.

### **Diary Dates**

- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Party Day** – children can come to school in party clothes. Check with google classroom (or Tapestry for Reception) about what food to bring in.
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 4pm – Carols around the Christmas tree** – choir and orchestra performing for parents/carers in the main hall – all welcome
- **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – School breaks up at 1pm for the holiday** – non-uniform day optional
- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – School opens for the spring term**
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – Very last day to hand in your application to the office if you want a Reception class place** at St Monica's in September 2023 (the local authority deadline is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January).
- **Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> Jan – Auditions for "A Star is Born!"** – every child in every class will be invited to audition to sing or dance in our special talent show! (Rec, Yrs 1, 2, & 3 show is Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and Yrs 4, 5 & 6 is Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb).

I have been reflecting on the last term and am very pleased with what has been achieved. We had a review with our School Improvement Advisor Barbara Breed recently. She continues to be impressed with the standard of work of the children and their behaviour for learning which is thanks to the excellent teaching and support staff who work so diligently and consistently throughout the year. She was also impressed with our management team comprising: the two Assistant Headteachers Mrs Tottle-Nugent and Mrs Roper as well as the Phase Leaders Mrs Hindle, Mrs Presland-Smith, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Duffy. She will be back next term to review more of the children's work. We have also booked a peer review for March when the Headteachers and senior leaders from local schools will be reviewing us. For now, I think we are all deserving of a good rest, ready to recharge our batteries for the spring term.

As you know, school closes on Tuesday at 1pm and will reopen on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January. This will be my last letter of the term. Have a wonderful Christmas and all good wishes for 2023.

Kind regards  
Kate Baptiste  
Headteacher